

## THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIC FEDERATION PERFINS 1988-1990

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(This is the first chapter of the above named article by MR R.D. SAMUEL of CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND. In Bulletin 250 Pg.12 I put the cart before the horse by printing the second page of this research. Mr Samuel has kindly agreed to allow me to print the rest of his paper. There will be a further chapter in the next Bulletin. Ed.M.R.S.)

In New Zealand, at least, the practice of perforating stamps with initials had gone very much the way of the dodo and the moa and, by 1988, was very much extinct. The last known commercial perfin had been seen about 1956 - the RICO perfin, used by the Royal Insurance Company Ltd, at Christchurch.

The collection of stamps with perforated initials was, until recent years, the domain of only a few rather demented enthusiasts, myself included. The subject has now become very popular and the humble perfin is fast gaining philatelic respectability. Appropriate perfins can now be found in even the best thematic collections; the official perfins of Australia are skyrocketing in price; and at least one collection of Australian commercial perfins has received a national Vermeil award - so qualifying it for international competition. All this would have been unheard of, even a few years ago.

The New Zealand Philatelic Federation, like many other organisations., was (and still is) a bit strapped for cash. Most of its revenue came from subscriptions and, on average, this income represented about 25c per individual philatelic society member - not even enough to cover Federation's basic administration costs. There were two immediate problems. Firstly, it was necessary to find fund-raising schemes which would raise a bit of ready cash and, secondly, it was necessary for subscriptions to be increased. One of the answers was perfins.

Perfins have been created for two purposes, commemorative perfins for sale at stamp exhibitions, and stamps perforated "THANK YOU" to denote payment of subscriptions.